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# SCREEN DIRECTORS' GUILD

## December
## 1943

King Vidor M.L.M.

1508 CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD ★ HOLLYWOOD 28, CALIFORNIA

# Happy New Year from Hollywood

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Guild I should like to take this opportunity of wishing each of our members a most happy holiday and prosperous year.

On the eve of the second anniversary of our Nation's entry into the war, our thoughts particularly turn to those of you who are serving in the armed forces both here and in the combat zones. You are establishing a record which commands the greatest respect and admiration, as individuals and as members of our industry and craft.

I know I express the wishes of all in the fervent hope that the time will not be long when you will return to us again.

To each of you our personal tribute and affectionate greetings.

Sincerely,

MARK SANDRICH

# SCREEN DIRECTORS' GUILD

# ★ ★ ROLL OF HONOR ★ ★

## SENIOR MEMBERS

Atkins, T. C.
Capra, Frank
~~Fenton, Leslie~~
Ford, John
Freeland, Thornton
Fritsch, Gunther
Havens, James
Heisler, Stuart
Henry, Martin
Hively, Jack
Huston, John
Kanin, Garson
Keighley, William
Leeds, Herbert I.
~~Lewis, Joseph H.~~
Litvak, Anatole
Lloyd, Frank
Lorentz, Pare
Lovering, Otho
Martin, Anthony T.
Miller, David
Newman, Joseph
Potter, H. C.
Reis, Irving
Roach, Hal Sr.
Salkow, Sidney
Sinclair, Robert
Stevens, George
Stevenson, Robert
Tate, Cullen B.
Vorhaus, Bernard
Waters, John S.
Witney, William
Woodruff, Frank
Wyler, William
SLOANE, PAUL

## JUNIOR MEMBERS

Abrams, Morris R.
Alonzo, Francisco "Chico"
Anderson, James H.
Andre, Thor
Arness, Raiph
Barry, Wesley
Beche, Robert M.
Bennett, Charles "Micky"
Berne, Jack R.
Bremerkamp, John R.
Brill, Henry
Broccolli, Albert R.
Browne, Dan
Burger, John "Red"
Calvin, Frank E.
Carr, Bernard "Barney"
Cohn, Robert
Corrick, Jack
Dellar, Melvin
Doran, Jack
Elzer, Norman L.
Emerson, Emmett
Epstein, Mel
Farfan, Robert L.
Flood, Tommy L.
Fowler, Bruce
Friedman, Seymour
Gardner, Arthur
Goetten, Armor Marlowe
Goetz, Hayes
Goldsmith, Stanley H.
Green, Richard A.
Haglund, Oren T.
Halpern, William A.
Herman, Harold
Hiecke, Carl F.
Hippard, George
Hittleman, Carl
Hough, Stanley Lee
Katz, Lehman
Lasky, William
Levine, Henry
McEdward, Jack
Mathews, Russell
Maybery, Dick
Meins, Douglas J.
Mendelson, Herbert
Montagne, Edward J.
Morse, John H. "Holly"
Moss, M. P.
Neufeld, Stanley
Pine, Howard
Pommer, John E.
Prettyman, John
Richert, Kenneth
Roberts, Byron
Roberts, Jack
Rosenberg, Aaron
Saeta, Edward
Saunders, Russell
Seeley, Herbert B. II
Sheldon, Willard
Sholem, Lee
Shourds, Sherry
Silk, Henry W.
Silver, David
Slott, Harry
Smith, Charles L.
Smith, Wingate
Spencer, Frederick
Steinberg, Abe
Stillman, Robert
Tucker, Melville
Valle, Gilbert J.
Vallee, Lee
Van Schmus, Albert E. Jr.
Warner, Les
Wasserman, Charles
Wing, Paul

## RETURNED TO INDUSTRY

Anderson, Edgar C.
Cukor, George
Dodds, Gordon
Farrow, John
Finlayson, Alex
Goodwins, Leslie
FENTON, LESLIE
Jason, Leigh
Johnson, Raymond K.
Kies, Frank
Killgore, Read
Kunody, Leonard
Landers, Lew
LEBORG, REGINALD
LeBorg, Reginald
Ray, Bobby
Roth, Seymour
Slott, Nate
Snody, Robert R.
Watt, Nate

## PRODUCTION MANAGERS' GUILD

Franklin, Harry Sidney
Hire, David
Mick, Curtis L.
Nelson, Ralph W.
Petschnikoff, Sergei
Vaughn, James T.
Westen, Alfred L.

1942-1943

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1942-1943

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Brown, Hugh B., Jr.
Bryant, Gene
Burns, Roy
Caffey, Frank
Cohen, Harry
D'Agostino, A. Mack
DeLand, Kenneth C.
Fischer, G. J.
Friedman, David A.
Gertsman, Jack
ANDERSON, EUGENE
Goux, Robert E.
Hansen, Chuck
Heinz, Russell Ray
Hersh, Ben
Hugunin, H. Lee (On sick leave)
Hunt, Charles
Keefe, Dan
Kurland, Gilbert
Marchant, Jay
Mattison, Frank S.
Moskov, George C.
McCracken, Booth
McEveety, B. F.
Nadel, Joseph
Poppe, Harry
IKERD, P.A.
Ralph, Ed
Robb, Donald A.
Rose, Arthur A.
Ryan, William J.
Schwartz, Harold
Siteman, Arthur
Smith, Art
Stacey, Eric
Stallings, Charles
Street, Sydney S.
Strohm, Walter
Weeks, H. Keith
Woehler, Edward
Woolstenhulme, Charles
Wurtzel, Sam

## SENIOR MEMBERS

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Allen, Lewis
Archainbaud, George
Arzner, Dorothy
Auer, John H.
Bacon, Lloyd
Ballbusch, Peter
Barton, Charles
Beaudine, William
Beebe, Ford
Bennet, Spencer G.
Bennett, Hugh
Berke, William
Berkeley, Busby
Berne, Josef
Bernhardt, Curtis
Biberman, Herbert
Borzage, Frank
Brahm, John
Bretherton, Howard
Brock, Lou HW
Brower, Otto
Brown, Clarence
Bucquet, Harold
Burnford, Paul
Butler, David
Buzzell, Edward N.
Cabanne, Christy
Cahn, Edward
Ceder, Ralph
Clair, Rene
Clemens, William B.
Clifton, Elmer
Cline, Edward F.
Collins, Lewis D.
Conway, Jack
Cromwell, John
Cukor, George
Cummings, Irving
Curtiz, Michael
Daniels, Harold
D'Arcy, Harry
Dassin, Jules
Daves, Delmer L.
Del Ruth, Roy
deMille, Cecil B.
DeToth, Andre
Dieterle, William
Dmytryk, Edward
Douglas, Gordon
Drake, Oliver
Dreifuss, Arthur
Duvivier, Julian
Dwan, Allan
Edwards, Harry J.
Elwyn, Robert
English, John W.
Enright, Ray
Farrow, John
Feist, Felix
Fleming, Victor

## SENIOR MEMBERS—Continued

Florey, Robert
Forde, Eugene J.
Fox, Wallace
Franklin, Sidney A.
Fuller, Lester
Garnett, Tay
Godfrey, Peter
Goldbeck, Willis
Goodwins, Leslie
Gordon, Michael
Goulding, Edmund
Green, Alfred E.
Griffith, Edward H.
Guiol, Fred
Hall, Alexander
Hathaway, Henry
Hawks, Howard
Hillyer, Lambert
Hitchcock, Alfred
Humberstone, H. Bruce
Jason, Leigh
Jason, Will
Johnson, Raymond K.
Kane, Joe
Kelley, Albert
Kenton, Erle C.
King, Henry
King, Louis
Korda, Zoltan
Koster, Henry
Lamont, Charles Fred
Landers, Lew
Lanfield, Sidney
Lang, Fritz
Lang, Walter
LeBorg, Reginald
Lederman, D. Ross
Lee, Rowland V.
Lee, Sammy
Leisen, Mitchell J.
Leonard, Robert Z.
LeRoy, Mervyn
Lewin, Albert
Lilley, Edward Clarke
Lord, Del
Lubin, Arthur
Lubitsch, Ernst
Luby, S. Roy
Ludwig, Edward
Mamoulian, Rouben
Mann, Anton
Marin, Edwin L.
Marlowe, Louis
Marshall, George
Marton, Andrew
May, Joe
Mayo, Archie
Menzies, W. C.
Milestone, Lewis
Minnelli, Vincente
Moguy, Leonide
Morgan, William M.
Morse, Terry
Murphy, Ralph
McCarey, Leo
McCarey, Raymond
McCarthy, J. P.
McDonald, Frank B.
McGann, William M.
McLeod, Norman Z.
Negulesco, Jean
Neumann, Kurt
Newfield, Sam
Nigh, William
Nosseck, Max
Nugent, Elliott
Palmer, Harold
Pichel, Irving
Popkin, Leo C.
Ratoff, Gregory
Rawlins, John
Renoir, Jean
Riesner, Charles F.
Ripley, Arthur
~~Roach, Hal Jr.~~
Roberts, Charles E.
Rogell, Albert S.
Rosen, Philip
Rosson, Arthur
Rosson, Richard
Rowland, Roy
Ruggles, Wesley
Ryan, Frank
St. Clair, Malcolm
Sandrich, Mark
Sanforth, Clifford
Santell, Alfred
Santley, Joseph
Saville, Victor
Schuster, Harold
Sedgwick, Edward
Seiler, Lou
Seiter, William A.
Seitz, George B.
Sekely, Steve
Selander, R. L.
Sherman, George
Sherman, Vincent
Shores, Lynn
Sidney, George
Siegel, Donald
~~Sierck, Detlef~~ Sirk, Douglas
Simon, S. Sylvan
Siodmak, Robert
Smith, Noel M.
Snody, Robert R.
Soria, Gabriel
Stahl, John M.
Staub, Ralph
Stoloff, Ben
Stone, Andrew L.
Strayer, Frank R.
Sutherland, A. Edward
Tansey, Robert
Taurog, Norman
Taylor, Ray
Thiele, William
Thorpe, Richard
Thurn-Taxis, Alexis
Tinling, James
Tourneur, Jacques
Travers, Douglas
Tryon, Glenn
Tuttle, Frank
Ulmer, Edgar
Vidor, Charles
Vidor, King
Von Sternberg, Josef
Waggner, George
Walker, Hal
Wallace, Richard
Walsh, Raoul
Watson, William
Watt, Nate
Welles, Orson
Wellman, William
Werker, Alfred
Whelan, Tim
White, Jules
Wilder, Billy
Wood, Sam
Wrangell, Basil
Yarbrough, Jean
Young, Harold
Zeisler, Alfred
Zinneman, Fred

add
Grissell, Walter
Lewis, Joseph
Herman, Al
Estabrook, Howard
Abrahams, D.
Eaves, Reeves
Fenton, Leslie
Fraser, Harry
Webb, Harry S.

## JUNIOR MEMBERS

Aldrich, Robert B.
Alexander, Arthur
Alt, Al
Anderson, Edgar C.
Archer, Claude E.
Asher, Roland
Babille, E. J.
Bailey, Rex
Barnes, Robert E.
Barragar, Nathan R.
Bartosch, Chester, Jr.
Beal, Scott R.
Beauchamp, Clem
Behm, Joe C.
Bellamy, Earl
Berk, Ben
Berlin, Abby
Bernoudy, E. F.
Beute, C. A.
Black, Arthur S., Jr.
Blystone, Jasper K.
Boetticher, Oscar, Jr.
Borzage, Lew
Bowles, Philip R.
Bowman, John Clarke
Boyle, Joseph C.
Brandt, Louis
Braun, Gerald
Bricker, Clarence
Brown, Bill
Burch, John S.
Bush, Don
Calihan, William A., Jr.
Callow, Ridgeway
Cameron, Rudolph W. B.

# JUNIOR MEMBERS—Continued

Caplan, Harry A.
Carter, Milton
Carre, Bartlett
Casey, Jimmie
Chapman, Richard F.
Chervin, Bert
Christie, Howard
Clegg, Cy
Cody, William Clark
Coleman, Charles, Jr.
Coleman, Herbert
Collings, F. O.
Coonan, John R.
Cox, James Judson
Cortiz, Gabriel O.
Davis, Edd
Decker, Elmer E.
De Haven, Carter, Jr.
De Lay, Mel
Depew, Joseph
De Rue, Eugene
Dill, Joe
Dodds, Gordon
Donahoe, Eddie
Dorfman, William
Dudley, Tom
Dunn, Eli
Dwight, Harvey
Eason, W. B.
Eckhardt, W. G.
Erickson, A. F.
Eurist, Clarence
Farrell, Lowell
Finlayson, Alex
Fleck, Fred
Ford, Phillip
Forsyth, William A
Foster, Harve
Fox, Frank J.
Frank, Fred H.
Ganzer, Alvin
Germonprez, Louis
Gibson, C. Carter
Glass, Gaston
Glazer, Herbert
Gould, Charles
Graham, Edward M.
Greene, Herbert S.
Greenwald, Johnny
Greenwood, Jack P
Guthrie, Lester D.
Guttman, Henry
Hammond, Arthur
Hart, Virgil
Haverick, Russell T.
Heath, Frank S.
Henry, Maxwell O.
Herndon, Robert
Hibbs, Jesse
Hirst, Herb
Holland, William
Holmes, Kenneth
Houck, Leo
Hough, Horace S.
Hugo, Charles
Ikerd, P. A.
Jacobson, Arthur
Jennings, James
Jewell, Austen
Johnston, F. E.
Jones, Clem
Jones, Harry O.
Joos, Theodore "Doc"
Kadden, Alan L.
Kahn, Jules
Karlstein, Phil
Kay, Gilbert
Kaye, Edward E.
Keays, Vernon J.
Kenny, Joseph E.
Kesler, Henry
Kies, Frank
Killgore, E. R.
Killy, Edward
Kissel, William H.
Klein, Harold M.
Knight, Harry
Kunody, Leonard
Lamont, Burnet
Lefert, Joe
L'Estrange, Dick
Levinson, Nate
Lewis, William H.
Lissner, Ray (On sick leave)
Loper, George
Lueker, Arthur
McCauley, Daniel J.
McEvoy, Earl E.
~~McDonough, Joe~~ HW
McGarry, Bill
McGaugh, Wilbur
McMahon, James C.
McNulty, George B.
McWhorter, Richard
Mackenzie, Jack
Mancke, Harry F
Mann, Al
Mari, John
Marks, Dave
Merman, Doc
Moder, Dick
Monroe, Richard
Mull, Edward
Mull, William E
Murphy, Johnny
Myers, Francis E.
Nazarro, Ray
Nelson, Sam
Nicholson, James R
Nolte, William
O'Connor, William
O'Fearna, Ed
O'Malley, Charles
Oswald, Gerd
Page, Joseph
Pagel, Raoul
Paisley, James A.
Parmenter, Frank L.
Paylow, Clark L.
Pearl, Richard
Perlof, Lou
Pett, Herman
Popkin, Joe
Quinn, Phil
Raboch, Alfred
Ray, Bobby
~~Reid, George C., Jr.~~ SW
Reynolds, Clark
Rhein, George
Richards, Lloyd
Rogers, Grayson
Rosenberg, Ruby
Rosenberger, James A.
Roth, Seymour
Rudolph, Oscar
Ruman, Sam
Salven, Edward
Santell, Marty
Schafer, George Jr.
Schaumer, Ad
Scheld, Fred
Schnee, Albert C.
Schneider, Sam
Schnitzer, Gerald
Scott, Harry
Scully, William
Seward, Thomas F.
Shannon, Robert
Shapiro, Leonard J.
Shenberg, Al
Sherwood, John F.
Shyer, Melville
Sidman, Isadore Sidney
Silberstein, Julian
Singer, Mort H., Jr.
Slosser, Ralph J.
Slott, Nate
Smith, Bob
Smith, V. O.
Spencer, Terry
Springsteen, R. G.
Spurlin, Elbert
Starkey, James D.
Stein, Ed
Sternbach, Bert
Strohbach, William
Stuart, Marvin
Suess, Maurie M.
Sullivan, Jack
Templeton, George B.
Tobin, George W.
Tummel, William
Tyler, Frederick C
Verk, Donald L.
Voglin, Jack
Volkman, Ivan H.
Vreeland, Robert
Walters, Ken
Webb, Robert
Webb, W. Seward, Jr.
Walton, Dick
Webber, Herman
Webster, George
Weinberger, Henry
West, Henry
White, Francis Lee
White, William
Wood, Allen K.
Worsley, Wallace, Jr.
Wright, Mack V.
Wurtzel, Paul
Wurtzel, Saul
Youngerman, Joseph C.
Zimmer, Dolph M.

# Screen Directors' Guild

KNOWING that all members of the Guild would be interested in the activities of those who are serving with the colors, we are quoting extracts from some letters received and reprinting others in full.

There seems to be a common desire from those in service to hear from the boys who are left behind, so when you get a chance drop a line to those you know.

This will also enable those with one outfit to know where others are serving at different locations and so create an interchange of correspondence.

As conditions warrant it, we will issue additional bulletins, so men in the service are requested to send in any information or gossip that might be of interest.

## DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANTS MAKE NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION TO WAR CHEST

Directors and assistants contributed $118,655.37 towards the Los Angeles Area War Chest which closed officially on December 8 last. This is slightly over 10% of the total sum of $1,154,126 subscribed by the entire industry Contributions in the entire Los Angeles area totaled $7,327,947 or 107.7% of quota.

Individual subscriptions from active directors reached just over 98% with first assistants shading that figure slightly and the seconds only a couple of points behind.

The Production Managers Guild registered a socking one hundred per cent of its membership. Their contribution is not included in the above figures.

All in all, the drive was a terrific success and established a new record for the motion picture industry both in the amount subscribed and the number of donors. Out of a total of 23,000 to 23,500 potential givers, 22,382 contributed to the War Chest.

★

*SEVENTH INNING*

*The other evening a lieutenant commander and his lady were standing on a midtown street wishing for a taxi, when one actually pulled up at the curb. About nine sailors piled out. "Through with the cab, sailor?" the Officer asked one of them. "No ,sir," he answered. "Just changing seats."*

★

## YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW!

Frank Woodruff, who just finished directing "Pistol Packin' Mama" for Republic will be inducted into the armed forces within the next day or two and Gunther Fritsch, whose last directorial chore was "The Curse of the Cat People" at R.K.O.-Radio, is scheduled to follow suit about December 24th.. A Christmas present from Uncle Sam.

★

*BIOLOGY LESSON:*

*Sir James Barrie's favorite story was about the professor of biology who explained to his class the spawning of fish. "So you see," he concluded, "the female fish deposits her eggs, the male fish comes along and fertilizes them, and later the little fish are hatched."*

*One of the girls held up her hand. "You mean, Professor, that the mother and father fish—that they—that before that nothing happens?"*

*"Nothing," said the professor, "which doubtless explains the expression, 'poor fish.'"*

## Decorations For Service Awarded to Lt. Thornton H. Lewis

First Lieutenant Thornton H. Lewis is the son of Bill Lewis, First Assistant Director at M. G. M. Lieutenant Lewis, originally reported as missing in action as of December 28, 1942, was six months later reported as killed in action on that same date. The Bomber on which he was navigator was shot down by Zeros after it had run up a record of 10 enemy planes downed.

In the list of decorations for service in the South Pacific announced by Lieutenant General Millard F. Harmon, Lieutenant Lewis was awarded the following decorations: the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. In the period from December 7th, 1941, to December 28, 1942, Lieutenant Lewis participated in 53 operational flights totaling 501 hours, during which exposure to enemy fire was probable and expected.

★

SERGEANT ANTHONY T. MARTIN, 19101595, of the 160 Signal Photo Co., APO 230, New York, writes that he is located "somewhere" in England but has no interesting "escapades" to write about. He sends best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

★

## GEORGE STEVENS TO DIRECT ADDED SEQUENCES FOR "THIS IS THE ARMY"

Major George Stevens, of the Strategic Services, now in England, will direct a sequence built around the song "My British Buddy" which was specially written by Irving Berlin for the stage-version of "TITA". The sequence will be added to all prints of the picture released in Great Britain.

★

*MONUMENT*

*A Florida back-country woman was hoeing out in front of her little weather beaten house. A neighbor stopped and said: "Effie May, it ain't fitten for you to be hoeing out here today when the whole town knows you just had a letter from the government saying that your boy, Jim, is laying dead in one of those furrin lands. It just ain't fitten.*

*Effie May looked at her neighbor with bleak, level eyes. "Friend," she said, "I know you mean well, but you don't just understand. This is Jim's land, and it rejoiced his heart to see green things growing, because it meant that his Maw and the young 'uns would be eating. This is his hoe, and when I'm hoeing I can almost feel his big strong hands under mine and hear his voice saying, "That's good, Maw, that's good." I can't afford any stone monument for Jim. Working, not weeping, is the only headstone I can give him. So, if you don't mind, neighbor, I'll do my grieving in my own way.*

## A GLIMPSE AT THE FUTURE

This is being written in the middle of December and it seems worth while to pause for a moment and take stock of what has transpired during the year now passing into history and visualize, if we can, what the future holds in store for us.

According ot Guild records, from January 1 to December 15, 1943, we produced approximately 60 features less than we did in 1942. All major studios with the exception of Columbia, Universal and Republic appear to have definitely discarded the "B" type of product and have confined themselves to "Specials" and "A's". Much longer schedules and bigger budgets have kept production at normal activity. Second units have become quite commonplace and this, in conjunction with army training films and shorts have kept the personnel at these studios continuously employed during the year, and there seems to be every indication that this method will continue in the future.

The industry as a whole is undergoing a subtle change both in production and distribution. In distribution it is setting itself to an "all-out" effort to make permanent patrons of the millions of new theatregoers it has acquired during the last couple of years, and to accomplish this result the emphasis has been put on pictures of larger, broader scope of diversified subjects and of utmost importance in entertainment value.

In the major independent field at least eight producing companies were organized during 1943, the majority of them to distribute through Untied Artists.

The States Rights and independent production has been stabilized with Monogram and P. R. C., practically controlling the field. Monogram has firmly established itself in its own studio and Producers' Releasing Corporation has taken over Fine Arts.

There has been considerable activity in army and navy training films. In addition to those made at the various studios, producers of commercials, whose activity was severely curtailed by film conservation and war conditions, turned their attention to army and navy contracts. Wilding, Jam Handy, Roland Reed, and Gross productions are now producing these films almost exclusively.

Just what part television is going to play in the future of the industry is still a question. This form of entertainment has been under wraps for some years. In Los Angeles, Don Lee's W6XVO culminated over seven years of intensive work in the telecast performance of a 40-minute play "Nor All Your Tears" as an appeal for blood donors to the Red Cross. Almost a dozen sets were used and it was almost flawless in the technical aspects of transmission, which seems to indicate that acceptable fireide visual entertainment is much closer at hand than most people believe.

World War II has established the motion picture as the most powerful educating medium of all time and it is materially furthering visual education in our class rooms, colleges and even industrial fields. This trend will undoubtedly carry over into the post-war period and the question arises, will the educational-instructional picture be developed by Hollywood or by those agencies whose primary concern is education alone and its progress via the visual route?

Many improvements have been made and will continue to be made in 16mm cameras, projectors, sound equipment and other essentials which will make possible the establishment and profitable operation of theatres in hundreds of small towns and villages that are now without motion picture entertainment because of the prohibitive cost and operation of standard 35mm equipment. This is a vast field in itself and you can be sure its potentialities are being carefully explored by important interests within the industry.

After peace is proclaimed and in the process of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of a devastated world, the motion picture will play its most important part—both here and abroad. Studios will rise again from the ashes in foreign capitals. The creative minds, with bitter memories of the grim and terrible struggle behind them, will realize that they have in the medium of the screen the power to mould public opinion in the best interests of all. It shall never happen again!

In the hamlets, in the villages, in the towns and in the cities the motion picture will do its part to maintain and protect the peace and security for which the peoples of the world have strug gled for so long.

## GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICE STAFF

J. P. McGowan, Gladys Kress, Cecile Spiegel and Auditor W. W. Withie, as well as B. E. Brown, "Brownie" now in the Casting office at Warner Brothers, extend to one and all the compliments of the season and best wishes for the future

We appreciate the many expressions of good will and can only say that we enjoy, more than anything else, personal contact with our members and the chance to read and answer letters from those in the armed forces. Thanks again and good luck.

★

Pfc. Jack R. Berne of the Technical Service Unit B, Studio branch, Signal Corps Photo Center, 35th Avenue, Long Island City, writes that "We are doing some great little films back here. I just finished a WAC recruiting picture that was photographed by Captain Leo Tover. Glad to hear that the producers have received our proposed changes to the Basic Agreement. Hope we put it over. It'll all help when we come back home. Best regards to all.—Jack.

★

The latest assistant to go with the armed forces is Dan Browne, who has been employed at Warner Brothers in various departments since 1932. His first active assignment as a second assistant was on the second unit of "Destination Tokyo" at which time he joined the Guild. His last picture was "Cinderella Jones".

Dan goes into the Navy and the good wishes of every Guild member go with him.

★

We received a V ...— Mail letter from Captain Emmett Emerson, O-464841, Hq Co, 602 Ord Base Arm Maint Bn, whose address is APO 600 c/o PM, New York City, N. Y.

Emmett sent a change of address and aslo wrote "The present trend of the war, both on the continent and in the Far East, is very encouraging, and we are all looking forward to the time when we can return home. In the meantime, please give my regards to all."

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Corporal Robert (Bob) L. Farfan, 39554927, 373 Base Headquarters, Peterson Field, Colorado Springs, Colo., sent us a copy of their local publication "Wingspread" which is a very neat paper and contains a lot of interesitng news and valuable information.

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Willard Sheldon, who was carving out a very enviable reputation for himself at Universal as a First Assistant, is one of the latest Guild members to join the Navy. He is now an able seaman with Platoon 3252, Area C-7, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., from which spot he writes as follows:

"Dear Mac:

"From an assistant director to a gob! Quite a change to get used to, but guess I'll manage all right. It is very cold back here—always a biting north wind to heckle we poor guys from California. Navy business must be good as the camp is crowded. Merry Christmas to all of the gang.—WILLARD."

★

*DIFFIDENT HERO*

*Orlin T. Greene, pharmacist's mate, received a citation for bravery which read that he volunteered to rescue and did rescue a wounded marine officer during the Solomon's campaign, in the face of "heavy Jap machine-gun fire with complete disregard for his own safety."*

*When questioned about this, Greene replied: "I don't think I really volunteered, although I may have coughed a little."*

# Screen Directors' Guild

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE MODIFICATION AGREEMENT

As we previously advised you, the platform containing proposed changes in the Modification Agreement covering wages and working conditions for first and second assistant directors had been sent to the Producers' Association which, in turn, had mailed copies to all studios.

On December 15th the Producers' Labor Administrator's office stated that most of the studios had submitted their recommendations, but they were waiting to hear from three plants who were still considering the proposals.

In view of the approaching holidays it does not seem likely that this matter will be placed in the hands of the negotiating committees before the first of the coming year.

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## POSSIBLE NEW GAS RATION CUT

A meeting was held on December 15th when the overall Motion Picture Industry Transportation Committee discussed the gas situation on the Pacific Coast. Quite probably you read the warning sounded by Price Administrator Chester Bowles in Washington the same day when he said, "Already four out of every ten gallons produced on the Pacific Coast is going to war. As soon as the offensive against Japan is increased in scope and intensity, it will take half of our West Coast gas."

Local OPA officials met with studio transportation representatives a few days ago and outlined the fact that there is a strong possibility of curtailment in the local gas supply and a probability of further decrease in the allotment per gas coupon.

This resulted in a meeting of the industry committee to devise ways and means to assist the local OPA in seeing that motion picture employees received sufficient gasoline to get them to and from their work.

At this meeting all of the familiar problems were discussed. The irregular hours, the "daily call backs" and the question of the "casual" worker. And a committee was appointed to meet with the Producers to try and reach a standardization of hours and a definite start and stop time for producing companies.

However, one of the main points advanced by the local OPA is the "share the car" system. To make this efficient the Regional Administrator states that it is necessary to reach a percentage of 3.6 passengers per car, and for the purpose of discovering just how efficient the "share the ride" has become another overall survey will be made in the industry.

We appear to be faced with a serious problem. The motion picture industry has been declared "essential", but not "critical", and, according to OPA standards we are not entitled to preferment, as are all war industries.

During recent weeks the deliveries to gasoline stations have been drastically cut from 15 to 35 per cent and if, in the light of the Price Administrator's remarks, this is further reduced there is a possibility that you might have a book full of tickets but your favorite gas station will not have any gas to give you.

We do not want to appear alarmists, but thi sis just a warning of what you might expect when after the first few rounds of sparring the combatants start to slug it out to a finish in the South Pacific.

Future meetings are scheduled to try and find a solution to the problem, of which you will be fully advised, but as a protection to yourself we would recommend that you seriously consider the "share the ride" plan so that in the event the worst happens you will have fortified yourself for the emergency.

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## ARMY ORIENTATION FILMS

Lieut.-Col. Frank Capra is now in Hollywood preparing the last two of the "Why We Fight" series of Army Orientation films. While in London recently Lt.-Col. Capra prepared a film on the Tunisian campaign with the cooperation of officials of the British and French armies. This picture, however, is not part of the "Why We Fight" series.

Here's a letter well worth reading from "Mickey" Bennett, formerly of Universal studio, who is probably on his way to Rome by now:

Sicily
October 22, 1943

My dear Mr. McGowan:

The other day, October 20 to be exact, I received my Guild card for the October to December period. It sort of set me to thinking about a promise that was made to me by the Guild when I first came into the Army. I was told that I would always be in good standing and would continue to receive my cards and all other information regardless of where I was until I returned to the industry. All of this has been done with no cost to me and without any effort on my part. Since that time I have traveled from coast to coast three times, once across the Atlantic, almost four months in various parts of Africa and two months in Sicily. In all that time and with all that moving about, I have always been kept fully informed of the goings on of the organization and my cards have come in every three months. That promise was made two years ago.

It may seem like a small and routine affair to you, but to me—and I'm sure that all the other "Service" members feel the same—it's a letter from home that is looked forward to.

The motion picture industry has been the greatest factor from the morale standpoint that we have over here, but to those of us who have spent our lives making pictures there is naturally something lacking. We regard them in a different light and perhaps are looking at them with a critical eye instead of just sitting there and enjoying them. Even though we are worlds apart and that there is a place for us the very day that we return is something that is very difficult for me to put into words.

If you wonder why I've taken up so much space to say this, here is the reason. My room-mate and fellow pilot was just suspended from the C. I. O. for non-payment of dues. I think he owes them three dollars.

I mentioned above that the motion picture was the greatest factor towards keeping up the morale that we have over here. That is a very true statement and all of the people from the biggest directors and stars to the smallest laborers and extras are to be congratulated on a job well done. Just keep it up and we are not going to lose anything in this war.

For a radical change my life over here has not been too hard. It gets rugged at times, but on the whole it's been pretty good. I spent a good deal of time in Africa living in a tent with the Arabs for neighbors and their next of kin—the flies—for boarders, but it was much better than a fox hole. One of the main problems is fresh food. Most of what we get is "fresh from the can" and practically everything is dehydrated. Even the movies. They are 16mm.

Oh, yes, I forgot to mention the famous French latrine. You haven't lived until you have used—or tried to use—one of these. The first unfortunate to try one of them ended up with their shoes full of water. Now we stand outside the door, give the chain a gentle yank and run like hell, inflating our "Mae Wests" en route. It's really fascinating.

Since I've been in Sicily, thing have been quite different. I now have a room with two walls and a roof! There is a nice shell crater in the front and a larger one in the back. I'm thinking of putting in a swimming pool.

We also have a shower with four exposures: North, South, East, and West. It's a bit startling to the Sicilians, but you would be surprised what beautiful friendships have sprung up as a result. The weather here is beautiful and reminds me of California. We have enough rain to keep things green and enough liquor to keep us ripe. It's a very nice set-up. Also, the people seem to like us, which helps a lot.

I'm not going to ask you to answer this because I know how busy you are. I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness and to wish you and the Guild the best of luck in the future.

Please convey my sincerest regards to all and tell the boys to keep up the good work. Sincerely,

CHARLES "MICKY" BENNETT,
Flight Office, A. C.

P.S.—Is it true that the Stern Brothers have offered El Duce, Hitler and Tojo a contract after the war to replace the three stooges?—C.M.B.

When Guild Secretary Gladys Kress was in the accounting department at 20th Century-Fox one of her co-workers was a lad named Dan Pinck. Dan is now in the Southwest theatre of operations. He wrote the following letter to George Bagnall of United Artists who, in turn, passed it on to Gladys.

Dan is not a member of the Guild, but we found his letter so interesting that we thought you also might enjoy reading it. So here it is:

IN THE FIELD, SOUTHWEST THEATER OF OPERATIONS

November 8, 1943.

Dear Mr. Bagnall:

I was glad to get your letter, which was given me aboard ship just as we were leaving for our new location, so I was not able to answer immediately. Thank you for your kind thought in wanting to send me something for Christmas, but it is not necessary as I do not need a thing and besides everything and anything spoils or molds here, but I want you to know I appreciate it very much.

We came in convoy and had many thrilling and anxious days, but we made it O.K. and are now at an advanced base. I saw two ships bombed and it was a horrible but very fascinating scene and I might add we almost met the same fate. Our ship had the honor of bagging 23 Jap bombers and they had the flags of the Rising Sun painted on the different guns and the number each gun brought down. I am seeing and participating in some of the news you are reading. We are four days by fast ship from the nearest settlement and are camped within a coconut grove on the very water's edge, and there is a thick jungle growth that stretches as far as the eye can see. I can't understand why so much credit is given to the Russian soldier—I know they are magnificent fighters and are deserving of the highest praise, but what about our own wonderful Marines? They are only a handful fighting against terrific odds and if you saw the conditions under which they are fighting such as disease, intense heat and insects and the jungle terrain where the grass is from four to six feet high, besides the underbrush and vines are so thick that one can't see but a foot away, so my hat's off to the American Marine for he deserves a little credit also.

When we landed the first thing we did was to dig ourselves a foxhole alongside our tent and we used it that night. Three friends and myself went for a walk down the beach and a little bit back in the jungle, which is still off limits and out of bounds because of the danger of hidden land mines and booby traps left by the Japs. We thought we might pick up a few souvenirs, but decided against it because it just doesn't seem right and also the danger of germs. We examined many of the enemy dead which litters this area and I believe I am getting hard and calloused. Can you feature me doing this and not being affected one iota by the sight, but the stench of decaying bodies isn't too pleasant. One of the dangers here besides bombing and strafing is infiltration and I could tell you something on this which occurred right in front of my tent about 2:30 in the morning if I were permitted. On the north end of this island 250 Chinese women were rescued and sent elsewhere to another island for protection. It is a Japanese policy that their army bring along women from an occupied country for immoral purposes.

The natives in this one particular section are the most primitive of any human being I have ever seen, and with one exception are not employed by our Government and are made to leave the camp after certain hours and we are not supposed to visit their villages and there are many reasons for this. These natives are horrible looking. The women are bare breasted and wear either the regular hula grass skirt or else a bright calico skirt if they can get the material. The men are the fashion plates and wear earrings and nose rings and bracelets on both ankles and arms and I saw some with filed teeth. These people are thin and scrawny looking and terribly diseased. Some came into our sick bay for medical treatment but were too far gone for help. The most are suffering from syphilis and Yaw's disease and practically all have fungus growths and scales on their bodies. I saw one man carrying a walking stick and the top was mounted with a Japanese head whose features, hair and teeth were preserved. The eye sockets were filled with red cellophane paper. I saw another with a necklace made of Japanese teeth and as the Japs are fond of gold in their dentistry, the effect was rather jarring.

I have never felt such terrific heat—it is a living, steaming, green hell. We have discarded all clothes except for a pair of shorts and as there are no women nurses at this advanced base, walking nude through the camp to go for a swim in the ocean is not frowned upon and if one meets a native women—well, no one is embarrassed. Everyone is getting a wonderful bronze tan.

They say there are any number of wild animals here including monkeys, who were wise enough to move farther inland when the terrific bombardments struck here. I see plenty of rats and lizards by the thousands anywhere from an inch to three feet in length and down the road from us in a stagnant pool there are crocodiles and sometimes they slither across the road. There are any number of huge land crabs, giant spiders and numbers of crawling things of every conceivable shape. The parrots and parakeets are of every color combination in the rainbow and their constant chattering and arguments are most disturbing at night.

They have many strange looking varieties of fruit, but the only ones I recognize are wild limes, mangoes, papayas, bananas and anaemic looking pineapple. The flowers are very beautiful and all are growing with such wild abandon. Orchids and wild gladiolas are everywhere as are iris and wild red lilacs and the beautiful flame and other flowering trees are now in bloom. The trees are strange looking but very pleasing to the eye—they are the breadfruit—a very tall and pure white tree—and the banyan, whose branches grow downward and continues to form another trunk until it covers a wide area. We are still under the equator and it is spring now with summer starting in December. It really is very beautiful country and the skies around sunrise and sunset are the most beautiful I have ever seen.

I saw some things here which are scattered around and which I surmised were markers for Japanese officer's graves They are four large bamboo poles about three feet high stuck into the ground at an angle which forms a square—a pole in each corner and all are topped with tin cans. I later learned the Japs had set them up as urinals and everyone think they are quite an innovation.

The natives here are pipe crazy. The larger the bowl, the better they like it and everyone indulges in this pleasant pastime. Parents start their children smoking at 1½ years old and it seems rather odd to see three and four year old youngsters running nude smoking contentedly on their pipes and, of course, since the American occupation they smoke cigarettes also. They like our smoking mixtures, however; they all have plots of native grown tobacco. Even old grannies have a pipe in their mouth most of the day.

I saw some skinny looking individuals rummaging around trying to salvage thrown out refuse and I just couldn't stand it and gave them all my rations of food and were they pleased. I also gave some hard candies and some gum and evidently this family had never chewed gum before. They worked their chops into a froth expecting it to dissolve like chewed food. They would take it out and examine it, then chew again so I suppose they kept this up until they either swallowed or threw it away.

There is a show about five miles from here and it really is an experience in order to get there. First you must run several obstacle courses and then the road plays hide and seek through the coconut trees until it unravels itself to a straight away right on the beach. The driver steps on the gas hoping to make the other side before the on-rushing combers return. If we are not successful we get a good sousing of salt water. The screen is about 8 feet by 7 feet and is nailed to a coconut tree. The de luxe seats are logs and you either bring along a stool or stand up. The pictures at this base are very old and the sound is awful and after each reel is finished they have to stop the show and wind another reel on as they only have a single projector. We must have steel helmets and knives which hang in a sheath from the belt. We depend solely on radar to give the signal for picking up enemy planes as all ours are grounded at night after a certain hour. In case of a raid or alert, every men spearheads for himself.

I saw one Marine pay $10.00 for a Hershey Chocolate bar. Very little candy here and how the chocolate bar got here without melting or molding is indeed a deep mystery. You may think it an exorbitant price, but as nothing can be purchased over here, nothing has value, and just what is value, anyway? To me it is purely personal. To the Marine he has an entirely different interpretation of it. Today he was going to eat and enjoy it because tomorrow he may be dead.

There is something new on the horizon and it is to be tried out very soon on the Japs. The name to remember is "Beach Jumpers". They are an intensely trained, highly conditioned and hand picked unit of specialists numbering only 75 men which includes the officers. They are all sworn to secrecy and what their work is I don't know, but Scuttlebutt has it that they will try some new secret weapon and methods.

I watched some native make some long buildings which are

used as storage houses and they really have a system all their own and construct with remarkable speed. The framework is made of bamboo or saplings and tied in place with vines and reeds. Palm leaves are woven and soaked in water and a man sits on one of the cross-beams with a fishing pole and he fishes these leaves up to a man who deftly thatches it by overlapping like shingles and holds it in place by weaving in and out with narrow strips of bamboo as one would sew with thread. The finished house is really amazing. They are cool, well ventilated and water repellent.

Some indentured natives imported from other islands and under the protection of another country built a church which is located in the American cemetery. They not only constructed but designed it as well, and I have never seen anything quite so beautiful. There are many things I want to forget about this island, but I always hope to remember this church. They were having a funeral when I saw it and it saddened me When one leaves for overseas the family never knows whether they will ever again see you.

I almost forgot to tell you about some pests here. They are coconut bugs which are attracted by light and they force themselves through the smallest mesh of any nettings. Now instead of acting like any normal bug would do, which is to bite, these villains would have to be different, so they pinch you which is both annoying and painful.

Our food is quite nourishing but entirely canned and we are dependent solely on ships to bring supplies in which is indeed a tough problem and it gets tougher and harder all the time.

The Marines have some very fancy jargons which I suppose finds its way into American slang. For instance, if you complain about the food which is always a good topic and then you are grousing and if one is a constant complainer, he bitches—and if one gets mad he is P.....ed off, and they have other delicate expressions which Emily Post would never approve of. I am swinging into it as I am a victim of environment. Anyway, these Marines have plenty to grouse about and things are constantly being done to annoy and aggravate them. I believe this is done with a definite purpose for it has its psychological effect. They go fighting mad and take their spite out on Japs. We all get sore for being over here.

I hope you are taking good care of yourself and that you have had your Eastern trip because I know how hard you work.

Sincerely,

DAN.

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## AIR MEDAL AWARDED TO MAJOR FRANK LLOYD

Major Frank Lloyd was one of the twenty-six Southern Californians in the 13th Army Air Force who received a total of 32 awards, according to an announcement that reached here on November 28th from Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon's headquatrers in the South Pacific.

All of the awards, with the exception of one Legion of Merit, were Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters for five hazadrous missions over Bougainville and the Northern Solomons in which enemy aircraft were encountered or expected. Major Lloyd was awarded the Air Medal.

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## 1944 ELECTIONS
## CALIFORNIA SERVICEMEN, ANYWHERE, CAN VOTE

California's men in the service can vote in next year's elections, no matter where they are, despite reports to the contrary. The office of the Secretary of State said unregistered persons in the service can register by writing to their county clerks and receiving affidavits of registration. Their commissioned officers will certify them. Those from San Francisco and Los Angeles should get applications from their county registrars instead of from county clerks.

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## *THE ANT AS A MILITARY PROBLEM*

*A frantic medical inspector at a Georgia air base sat down and wrote this note to the medical supply officer of the station hospital:*

*"Following telephone information from your office that you were unable to issue carbon disulphide for use in this office in ant control, request was made of the Quartermaster. We were informed by the Quartermaster that they could only issue such preparation if the ant to be exterminated was in the building. If it was outside of the building, the issuance of such preparation properly should come from the Engineering. It is difficult to determine the intentions of the ants we are attempting to exterminate—some live inside and wander outside for food, while some live outside and forage inside for food. It is a difficult problem to determine which ant comes from without and is an Engineering ant, and which ant comes from within and is a Quartermaster ant. Some of our ants appear to be going in circles and others are apparently wandering at random. Such ant tactics are very confusing and could result in a Quartermaster ant being exterminated by Engineering poison or an Engineering ant by a Quartermaster poison, which would be contrary to the letter of regulations and would probably lead to extensive investigation and lengthy letters of explanation.*

*"In view of the fact that Quartermaster poison has been found to kill an ant just as dead as Engineering poison, and vice versa, request is made that your office draw identical poisons for issue to this office from both Engineering and Quartermaster and mix same so that there will be no way of knowing which poison killed the ant."*

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Bill Halpern, who was a U. S. M. C. Reserve Lieutenant in the late Major W. S. Van Dyke's battalion here before the outbreak of the war, is now Major William A. Halpern, U. S. M. C. Unit No. 505, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, and the following letter was received from him too late for the last bulletin. However, good and interesting news is always news so here it is:

Gentlemen:

Have been unable to reply to your letter of September 19 prior to this date because of a number of factors, all involving some sort of censorship. However, if the bulletin you mention has not been published, perhaps the following information will be of interest.

I am now Photographic Officer for a large Marine Corps group operating "somewhere in the Pacific". As such my duty includes the making of 35mm movies, both in black and white and in Monopack Technicolor—for purposes of historical record, newsreels, and when possible, the production of one or two reel shorts for public distribution. What gets out and what doesn't is up to Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington—whom you can also contact for any further information about my activities. They may feel that they'd want to release information that is not my prerogative at this moment. I also have a number of 16mm cameras—and cameramen—who are shooting battle stuff in areas where it is impractical to carry a 35mm outfit. The 16mm stuff is primarily Kodachrome—this because black and white blow-ups from color will not be as grainy as blow-ups from ordinary 16mm black and white. Incidentally, I have a portable sound outfit with me here in the field.

Also under my supervision is all other photography in this area that comes under the jurisdiction of this outfit. This includes stills of all kinds—tactical, historical, intelligence, et cetera, as well as those intended for the press. We have the most modern of equipment—and the job, while a big one, is most interesting. After this maybe when I return to Hollywood—as I hope to do when the shooting is all over—I'll be able to join the cameraman's union as well—although I don't know why, as I still want to grab a meg and yell "quiet". Yelling "quiet" out here would be the height of optimism—it just doesn't exist.

Motion pictures still provide a major part of the entertainment the Marines out here have available. In fact, I never realized the extent of "Hollywood's" influence before until I found all the local citizenry "hep" to the latest Hollywood gossip, phrases, and slang. This country is terrifically "Americanized" and it can all be laid to films—and nothing else

This is war—and while that thought isn't exactly the most cheerful in the world—nevertheless I'm glad to be here For while I feel I'm doing my "bit" to help slap the Jap and all that sort of thing I'm also gaining a wealth of experience that I feel sure will be of value to me when I return to civilian life in dear old Hollywood As well as an immense store of technical knowledge that I'm sure could not be obtained without experience—experience the guilds and unions might have prevented me from acquiring the studios. But don't get me wrong, I'm sticking to the SDG, and I love Hollywood. Best wishes to all the members.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. HALPERN.